AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented system for managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium encoded with processor readable instructions that when executed by the processor implement,

a network status gathering mechanism configured to ascertain a network status,

a network status reporting mechanism configured to report said network status to said network operations console, and

a network status reporting level determination mechanism configured to determine a level of detail to report said network status to said network operations console based on at least one of user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in reporting network status;

wherein regardless of the user request, the level of detail is limited to a maximal level permitted by available bandwidth.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein:

said network status reporting level determination mechanism is configured to determine said level of detail on a switch by switch basis.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising the steps of:

gathering network status;

determining ~~an appropriate~~ a reporting level at which to report network status based on at least one of user request and a predetermined

allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and

provding network status to said network operations console at said ~~appropriate~~ reporting level from said determining step;

wherein regardless of the user request, the reporting level is limited to a maximal level permitted by available bandwidth.

4. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising:

means for gathering network status;

means for determining ~~an appropriate~~ a reporting level at which to report network status based on at least one of user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and

means for providing network status to said network operations console at said ~~appropriate~~ reporting level from said determining step;

wherein regardless of the user request, the reporting level is limited to a maximal level permitted by available bandwidth.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a processor to facilitate the management of a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, the computer program code mechanism comprising:

a first computer code device configured to gather a network status;

a second computer code device configured to determine ~~an appropriate~~ a reporting level at which to report network status based on at least one of user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and

a third computer code device configured to provide network status to said network operations console at said ~~appropriate~~ reporting level determined by said second computer code device;

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<u>wherein regardless of the user request, the reporting level is limited to a maximal level permitted by available bandwidth</u>.

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end